



### Manuel Alonso-Martinez

35894 Seaward Reach  
The Sea Ranch, CA 95497  
(510) 213-4921  
[manuel.alonso@gmail.com](mailto:manuel.alonso@gmail.com)

We all became TSR members because we love this place. We love this place because we love TSR's intentional preservation of nature and TSR's unique historical values. I want us to be able to return – after a day or a month or many years – to the place and values that we first embraced and still admire.

My 25 years as a nonprofit director and executive on environmental initiatives allow me to contribute. I know how to work with CEO's and COO's and CFO's and people without initials. I know how to work with attorneys and accountants. (Good nonprofits do not have a dollar to waste.) A Board should make policy, carefully develop strategy, closely oversee operations, and ensure fair and equal treatment of members, new as well as old.

We need not merely to preserve but also to consult our foundational values, such as "living lightly with the land," as we address questions. A Board meeting every month, not every other month, would be more transparent, efficient, and open. Our critical issues should not be hidden in Board Executive Sessions, should not linger in too many committees. The TSRA Archives need to be supported. The new webpage can be improved. Our wait for the Board or Community Manager or the DCEM to respond should be short, not an ordeal.

May I show you how my experience and expertise may help us address a few issues?

#### Environment

I am a social scientist who has actually lived in international forests. I support the Board's unanimous endorsement of the Forest Task Force's use of modern science to give us guidelines based upon its three years of research.

Redwoods' 250 million years of evolutionary intelligence support this approach.

We need to preserve our forest long term and are in a position to do precisely that. The five independent experts who have examined our forest in the last ten years have said that our redwood forests remain healthy; our fire risks are far less than east Sonoma's forests; our growing redwoods excel at sequestering carbon to fight climate change.

I support TSRA's approval of Forest Carbon Works' February 2021 contractual offer to pay TSRA about \$780,000 to preserve 527 acres (of our 1538 acres of forest) for 125 years through TSRA's enrollment in a California climate change program. We retain control of the forest, and our state reporting requirements are minimal.

California's world-class carbon program, including cap and trade, for forest landowners, has already helped lower emissions by forcing companies to both cap their emissions and to purchase carbon credits to offset no more than 4% of that cap. Forest Carbon Works' methods employ accurate assessments, reliable certification methods, and practical monetization tools.

TSRA can generate funds by letting redwoods stand where they should stand. Extractive uses of redwoods are shortsighted and outdated. Each acre of redwoods stores over 1,000 tons of greenhouse gases. Under the Forest Carbon Works agreement, we curb emissions, preserve the 527 acres of forest, and generate over \$580,000 the first year and about \$38,000 annually for at least the next five years.

To move from land to sea, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 protects the seals that live and breed on our beaches. This population of seals rarely travels more than 20 miles away. Pups grow up and come back to breed here. I've worked with NOAA on ocean health projects in California. We need to follow federal and state laws. Seals are highly sensitive mammals: they see and smell us long before we see them. When people arrive, they become very alert. We need to treat them with care if we want to experience their life cycle.

Animals and birds do not live around us. They live with us. We need to formulate and enforce careful access to these beaches and other sensitive sites, continue and improve our docent programs, and promote environmental stewardship among adults, children, renters, and visitors.

#### Community

The land gives a community a sense of place. A community of residents living together, day by day, creates a system of values that we know as culture. As an anthropologist who has lived and worked among indigenous peoples, I can tell you that preserving a community's culture is crucial to protecting the socio-ecological environment.

We see our members leave when unregulated short rentals arrive on their block. We see that local workers cannot find long-term rentals because short-term rentals are more profitable for distant owners. These signs of the fraying of our old community fabric should alert us. Our cohesive community of full and part-time residences and full-time rentals will not attract future buyers – or even future renters – if all they see is a sea of other renters and their cleaning trucks.

Rentals have played and should play a role at TSR, but we need to regulate. This "West Side" story is now becoming an "East Side" issue. I support the Short-Term Rentals Task Force's effort to propose common-sense solutions that sustain the community and alleviate nuisance. Among the last on the coast to regulate, we cannot postpone any longer. Carefully crafted and enacted formal Rules should get Coastal Commission approval so the Board can activate them without costly litigation.

We came to TSR to live healthier lives, with lasting friendships, among good neighbors. We need to improve our access to health care. My wife Martha Smythe has worked as a visiting community nurse and in psychiatric facilities. I have learned from her work with TSR residents about local needs. I want to engage the Board in conversations with medical professionals and you about improving health care services.

#### Education

I'm an educator: a college professor in my 30's, a director of a foundation working with Central and South American rainforest communities in my 40's, a director of sustainable rural development projects in Europe. As the Executive Director of Earth Team, a Bay Area nonprofit, I manage federal and state funds to offer project-based learning opportunities to disadvantaged public high school students. We work with agencies like NOAA on ocean issues and with UC Forestry Professor Joe McBride, TSRA's own expert, on community forestry, using carbon markets grants.

TSRA should support continuing education for everyone, formal and informal. Our newest arrivals and many of our older arrivals need access to education about TSR's history, landscape, and values. All our children need not only TSR as nature's playground but also good local schools. The Board needs to discuss how TSRA – through volunteers and programs – can encourage our parents and our children to remain here for the long run.

I see the role of a TSRA director as about the same as an educator. You listen and learn, calmly arrive at conclusions, make sure all others always can understand you, and feel free to correct you. I see companionship and cooperation with others as the cornerstone of good governance.

I ask you to allow me to work as your director. I ask you to work with me for our future.